

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

TRUSTEES OF THE WRENTHAM
STATE SCHOOL

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1922

DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL DISEASES



PUBLICATION OF THIS DOCUMENT

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TRUSTEES

OF THE

WRENTHAM STATE SCHOOL.

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, <i>Chairman</i>	Newton.
ELLERTON JAMES, <i>Secretary</i>	Nahant.
MARY STEWART SCOTT	Brookline.
GEORGE W. GAY, M.D.	Newton.
PATRICK J. LYNCH	Beverly.
HERBERT PARSONS	Newton.
SARAH LAWRENCE	Boston.

OFFICERS FOR 1921-22.

GEORGE L. WALLACE, M.D.	<i>Superintendent.</i>
MILDRED A. LIBBY, M.D.	<i>Senior Assistant Physician.</i>
ALICE M. PATTERSON, M.D.	<i>Senior Assistant Physician.</i>
NEIL A. DAYTON, M.D.	<i>Senior Assistant Physician.</i>
GENEVIEVE GUSTIN, M.D.	<i>Assistant Physician.</i>
RAYMOND A. KINMONTH, M.D.	<i>Assistant Physician.</i>
JOHN A. NASH, D.M.D.	<i>Dentist.</i>
CLARA S. BLOIS	<i>Matron.</i>
SARA M. CLAYLAND	<i>Chief Clerk and Treasurer.</i>
PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD	<i>Head Teacher.</i>
ALICE RAYMOND	<i>Head Social Worker.</i>
HAWLEY P. FOSTER	<i>Social Worker.</i>
MADELINE BARLOW	<i>Psychologist.</i>
RUTH A. PROUTY	<i>Psychologist.</i>
IRA H. BENNETT	<i>Chief Operating Engineer..</i>
FREDERICK T. W. BOYD	<i>Foreman Mechanic.</i>
FRED HEFFRON	<i>Head Farmer.</i>

MEDICAL CONSULTING SPECIALISTS.

Dr. GEORGE T. VOGEL	<i>Laryngologist.</i>
Dr. H. B. C. REIMER	<i>Oculist.</i>
Dr. JAMES M. GALLISON	<i>Surgeon.</i>

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES.

To His Excellency the Governor, the Legislature and the Department of Mental Diseases.

The trustees of the Wrentham State School have the honor to submit their report for the sixteenth year of the institution, established by the Acts of 1906 for the care of the feeble-minded.

In the process of relief of trustees of institutions from administrative duties, which has marked recent changes in the State government, there has been the rather gratifying by-product of a greater freedom in their comment upon the institution's achievements. They are unrestrained by any peril of self-praise or self-justification. They are more looking in than looking out, but they are not at all relieved from diligently looking on. This is, of course, aside from their most important duty of helping on, by the best counsel they can supply to the officials who directly bear the administrative burden.

Viewed with such freedom, Wrentham offers a significant new physical feature as its 1922 mark of progress, — the group of buildings that fill in the hitherto open end of its quadrangle, and fill a more serious gap in the outfit necessary for full service to the inmates. These are the assembly building, the industrial building for girls and, although not yet completed, the industrial building for boys. The assembly building, with auditorium, ample and modern stage, anterooms on the main floor and the employees' club outfit underneath, is counted upon to serve the school's interests by serving those of the inmates in ways that are now known to be essential and that have been restricted for lack of such equipment, and serving the common interest again by making employment and living at the school distinctly more attractive. The transfer of industries from dormitory basements to the special buildings is an event of prime importance, and having all the greater value as the sense that such a school is above all a training school is developed. Nothing the Commonwealth has done in equipping Wrentham for contribution to the dealing with the State's problem has quite equaled these latest additions.

There are other visible evidences of the State's determination to make this school an example of competent institutional care, the enumeration of which is to be found in the superintendent's report.

The other notable item of record for the year is as keenly sensed inside the school even if it is not so apparent to the observer. It is the transfer of a considerable number of defective delinquents to the newly opened department at the State Farm. The State Department of Correction has brought to earth the legislation of ten years ago, which has been much admired during its period of suspension and is proving even more admirable at work. The superintendent's report will be read with interest and profit by the people of the State who are keen

to the mistaken use of a school for the feeble-minded as a receptacle for the sort of person in whom is combined mental subnormality and criminal supernormality.

We commend Dr. Wallace's substitution for the term defective delinquent the phrase criminal feeble-minded. The school's experience with this element justifies almost any appellation the language affords. Moreover, we are informed that the boys who were disorderly, destructive and a constant danger at Wrentham are tractable and orderly in the new place. What a feeble-minded school does not and, in the nature of things, cannot supply is shown to be the thing needed in these cases, and, when supplied, the conduct of the boys needing it is transformed. That thing, of course, is physical restraint, not necessarily actually in use but constantly within the range of their vision.

Every reason that applies to the removal of the criminal feeble-minded boy applies with equal force to the situation as to the girls with the same criminal endowment. The demonstration at Bridgewater is a demonstration of the prudence, wisdom and effectiveness of a policy that has no conceivable distinction as to sex. Wrentham experience is final evidence that there is no distinction in fact. The trustees have expressed their deliberate and earnest opinion in a communication to the Commissioner of Correction:—

At their monthly meeting the trustees of the Wrentham State School passed the following vote:—

Voted, That in the opinion of the trustees every possible effort should be made for the removal of male juvenile delinquents and female defective delinquents from the school as soon as possible, and that a copy of this vote be sent to the Commission of Correction.

This vote was passed after a very serious discussion by the trustees of the presence in the school of a large number of defective delinquents under the age of seventeen who are not any less distinctly marked and not any less an improper charge for the school than the older boys who have been removed. They also felt that every possible consideration should be given to some provision for the defective delinquent girls. They are a rather numerous group and as distinctly out of place in a feeble-minded school, with its relative freedom and its training design, as the boys.

The trustees are very urgent that you bring about some provision for these girls. The vote passed is not a perfunctory one, but expresses only too mildly their feeling of the State's duty not only to the institution but to the charges themselves. The trustees will be glad to assist in any way you may suggest in co-operation to bring about the new provision.

We are assured of the interest of the Department of Correction in a provision for these other equally troublesome and misplaced groups. But apparently no accommodations are as readily available as were those at Bridgewater. That fact does not lessen the need, and we cannot too strongly urge that it have attention by the Legislature.

The parole law, enacted the past year, marks the advance of the policy of releasing the feeble-minded under supervision at the earliest moment when training, habit formation, a suitable place and assurance of protection combine. Too much can doubtless be predicted as to the extent of the depletion of the schools by this process, but we are inclined to believe, on the basis of our experience, that too much has not yet been predicted. The new statute gives the trustees power to release on parole on such conditions as they may fix, and to revoke the parole and bring back the inmate if it seems wise to do so. The valuable feature is that the venerable provision that a year's absence from the institution effects a discharge is repealed as to the feeble-minded.

If it could help to lead citizens of Massachusetts to do a little deed of charity that it may never occur to them is a very gracious one, we should like to give added publicity to the superintendent's statement as to the fund that may be used for the happiness of the children at Wrentham. It will do things that bring great joy, and such things as the money raised by taxation may not, for excellent reasons, be used to do.

The Wrentham State School, in our judgment, furnishes an example of devoted and efficient service in its entire corps of employees. Not the least of the achievements of the superintendent and his staff is the development of a spirit of interested co-operation throughout the personnel. Its result is evident in the spirit of the school and the efficiency in all its departments.

Respectfully submitted,

ALBERT L. HARWOOD, *Chairman*,
ELLERTON JAMES, *Secretary*,
MARY STEWART SCOTT,
GEORGE W. GAY, M.D.,
PATRICK J. LYNCH,
SARAH LAWRENCE,
HERBERT PARSONS,

Trustees.

SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT.

To the Trustees of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report of the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

The movement of the population has been as follows:—

Number present Nov. 30, 1921	1,304
Number absent Nov. 30, 1921	209
Admissions during the year	222
Discharged	205
Deaths	17
Daily average number present	1,275
Absent Nov. 30, 1922	209
Present Nov. 30, 1922	1,187

Of the 1,187 present, 382 are males and 805 females.

Of the 105 admissions during the year, the following table gives the ages in five-year periods:—

Admissions during the Year, Dec. 1, 1921, to Nov. 30, 1922.

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Under 5 years	7	6	13
5 to 10 years	16	9	25
10 to 15 years	15	13	28
15 to 20 years	13	12	25
20 to 25 years	1	9	10
25 to 30 years	1	2	3
30 to 35 years	—	—	—
35 to 40 years	—	1	1
Totals	53	52	105

During the year the institution has been free from contagious diseases and the general health of the children has been good. The importance of the work of the medical staff in the field of preventive medicine in a school of this character cannot be too strongly emphasized. The attention to food, clothing, ventilation, exercise and general hygiene when amplified by the more highly specialized work of dental hygiene, removal of adenoids and diseased tonsils, correction of eye and ear defects, vaccination and inoculation against smallpox and typhoid fever, testing and immunizing against diphtheria, and isolation against those contagious diseases which the science of medicine has not yet brought within the immunization field, make for the good health of the institution and thus in a large measure contribute to the general well-being and happiness of the population.

The work of the school department during the past year has been most satisfactory. Not only has the character of the work done in the classrooms been of a high order, but by means of entertainments, parties and the celebration of holidays the school department has contributed in a large measure to the social and recreational life of the whole institution.

The parole work is being carried forward in a careful and thorough manner by two efficient social workers. The importance of this work cannot readily be estimated. Not only is it immediately practical from financial and humane view-

points; but the continuous stream of good fellowship and understanding, as well as actual information that is being carried from the institution into the community by the workers and in turn from the community to the institution, makes for real practical extension of usefulness of the institution.

From our experience in this field of work with individual cases, we are learning much of the many factors which make for the success or failure of our boys and girls in their attempts toward adjustment in the community. The most constant character defect present in the failures is emotional instability. Given the same degree of intelligence in two parole patients, — the one well balanced and the other emotionally unbalanced, — the chances for success in the community for the well-balanced one is many times greater than for the other. We have found that an individual with a much lower intelligence rating, if well balanced emotionally, is better qualified to meet conditions successfully in the community than is his neighbor who is more highly endowed with intelligence but with a disturbed emotional nature. All our pupils selected for parole know academically the difference between right and wrong. They know the right attitude to have towards the work selected for them and they also know the right social contacts to make. Theoretically, therefore, we should expect 100 per cent successes, but in doing so we have not reckoned with this illusive character quality of the emotional nature.

This school has from the beginning maintained most cordial relations with the community. We have endeavored wherever possible to bring the expert knowledge of our staff into practical use by assisting parents, guardians and teachers in the management, care and training of problem children in the homes, schools and community. The establishment of the State-wide special school clinics has placed these resources in a very direct and practical manner at the service of the communities assigned to us for examinations. It has established a vital contact between the institution and the districts served, thereby guaranteeing a better mutual understanding.

The institution has been much relieved by the opening of the department for adult male defective delinquents at Bridgewater and the transferring thereto of those over seventeen years of age. As there has not been any provision made for the women and juvenile defective delinquents, we still have this disturbing class present in large numbers. The attempt to care for this criminal class in a school for the feeble-minded is wholly irrational and a positive failure. I cannot better describe the futility of trying to assimilate this class in a school for feeble-minded children than to quote from my last year's report.

The presence of a large number of the defective delinquent class in the institution is becoming an increasingly wasteful burden. The institution can do them no good, while they do the ordinary feeble-minded children who are the inmates for whom the school was created incalculable harm by robbing them of a large share of the attention, interest and energy of the staff.

It has long been recognized by all forward-looking States that in the care of the insane the ordinary insane patients must be protected from the criminal insane. This is accomplished by making special institutional provision for the latter class. Yet in this Commonwealth, which was the leader in making this special provision for the care of the criminal insane, the criminal feeble-minded are still freely committed to our schools for the feeble-minded.

An institution for the feeble-minded, if well managed, is a community comparable to a small town humming with activities. It is well known how one criminal will terrorize a town, disorganize its activities and disturb the law-abiding citizens. The law-abiding citizens feel they have a right to be protected from the depredations of the criminal. The feeble-minded children entrusted to our care have as good a right to be protected from the criminal feeble-minded. I believe that our children's inability to protect themselves from the harmful influence of this delinquent class is a challenge to our spirit of fair play and our desire to protect the weak.

Let me at this time again urge upon you that all possible means be employed to remove, as soon as may be, this baneful element from the school.

Much has been done this year towards the physical development of the institution. The cold-storage plant has been completed and is a model in its arrangement.

With it in operation the preservation and storage of food are guaranteed. The girls' industrial building and the assembly hall have been completed, and the boys' industrial building is under process of construction. A carpenter shop has been built and the machinery and tools moved there from rooms formerly occupied in the power house. The space thus vacated in the power house has been utilized for the installation of the cold-storage machinery and of a new generating engine. One thousand feet of tunnel for steam pipe has been built, three sewer beds have been added to the filtration system, and 898 square yards of concrete walks and platforms have been laid. Twelve hundred feet of 3-inch water pipe have been laid to supply the houses on Dedham Street. Progress is being made in replacing the barns that were destroyed by fire. These are being built of fireproof material.

Our attending clergymen have given another year of devoted work to the advancement of religious life at the institution. In the messages they bring and the contacts they make, they exert a powerful influence for good conduct and right living in the daily life of the pupils.

We are indebted for many kind expressions of helpfulness received from several sources through the year, notably the consideration shown our pupils by the manager of Paragon Park, Nantasket, in giving free admission to our many parties during the summer; to the parents of two pupils who furnished one hundred Christmas gifts each; to the parents of another pupil who gave one hundred and fifty sweaters to be distributed among the pupils; to another parent who makes frequent large presents of candy and fruit to the school, and to still another parent who keeps the hospital supplied with flowers during the winter season; also to others who have donated various sums for furnishing music. To our trustee Dr. George W. Gay are we grateful indeed for his kindness in furnishing an orchestrelle for the new assembly hall.

In this connection I wish to speak of a donation of \$100 given a few years ago by Mrs. L. Vernon Briggs to establish a special industrial fund. This gift has given much happiness to a large number of children and the end is not yet, for incidentally that fund has expanded to the considerable sum of \$1,100. These gracious acts by these good people have suggested the thought that perhaps there may be many others who would like to contribute towards the establishment of a special fund for this school, a fund to be administered by the trustees separate and apart from the State finances and the income from which to be expended for promoting the happiness of the children. There is surely a need for such an endowment.

Dr. Charles E. Roderick resigned to take up work in the psychiatric department of the Veterans' Bureau.

Dr. Neil A. Dayton has been appointed to the position of senior assistant physician, and Dr. Raymond A. Kinmonth to the position of assistant physician. Dr. Dayton's appointment was by transfer from the staff of the Westborough State Hospital.

Miss Hawley P. Foster was appointed social worker, and Miss Alice Raymond was promoted to head social worker.

The consulting specialists have rendered excellent service in removing physical defects and handicaps, thereby making it possible for the children to attain their highest degree of physical health and mental development.

I wish to call to your attention the high quality of service rendered by our conscientious staff of physicians, our devoted teachers and officers and our loyal employees in the care and training of the children.

For the history of the year's work in the schools, dental hygiene, social service and the school clinic, I refer you to the reports of the heads of these departments.

In closing I wish to express my appreciation to the Board members for their wise counsel and advice in the many different problems which have arisen during the year.

Respectfully submitted,

GEORGE L. WALLACE,
Superintendent.

SCHOOL REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you the annual report of the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

The total number of children attending school classes during the year has been 792.

The work in the training classes during the past year has been successfully carried on. The children coming into the department had previously received no training in order or personal cleanliness. It is gratifying to note the improvement in the children attending these classes. Eighteen children from the hospital class have been promoted to the more advanced training class, and two have gone forward to the kindergarten. Although many of these children cannot walk or talk, they can match color and form, take part in many of the sense training exercises, hum a tune or keep time to the nursery songs.

In the kindergarten the aim is to fill the gap between the training department and the work of the primary rooms; to take the children from something that they know, such as color work, weaving and sewing, to cutting on a line, coloring and counting, in preparation for their work in the primary grade. Froebel's "Gifts" is used as a basis of instruction and also the usual kindergarten occupations.

The work in the primary rooms has also been successful. The fundamentals of reading, writing and number work have been taught, and many boys and girls have done credit to themselves and their teachers in being able at the end of the year to read simple sentences from the chart or primer, or to copy sentences from the blackboard. Much cutting and coloring and hectographed work are done in these rooms, and the objects made are used for class decorations.

More advanced work of the same kind is carried on in the intermediate rooms. We have been able to take a few of our pupils through the four processes of common fractions. United States history, in simplified form, is taught, also world geography. We have made quite a feature of penmanship during the past year, and notable improvement has been shown by many of the pupils. The boys have continued to do creditable vellum work and have kept the institution well supplied with portfolio covers and desk pads. In addition they have made some very attractive posters and mottoes for classroom decoration. The girls have also contributed some very good specimens of vellum work in the way of scrapbooks for the younger children. They have also continued to keep the library books in repair.

In the physical training department the children receive much benefit. It is often in these classes that we get the first response from the slow, sluggish child. The work consists chiefly of active games involving running and jumping. Later the children are given drills with dumb-bells, Indian clubs or wands and also calisthenics demanding attention and co-ordination. Folk, æsthetic and social dancing are taught for poise and grace. Apparatus work with the buck, horse, parallel bars and stall bars, calling for co-ordination of mind and muscle, is taught. In addition to the regular classes, each physical training teacher spends a period each week with the adult patients, teaching more advanced games with the boys and dancing with the girls. The teachers also spend two forty-five-minute periods daily in the buildings with the children who are unable to come to the gymnasium but need special games and exercises.

It is in our music classes, perhaps, that the greatest pleasure is afforded to the greatest number of people, for the work of these classes is to provide entertainment for parties, exhibitions, weekly entertainments and religious services on Sundays. Exclusive of the regular classes in vocal music, we have a well-organized girls' orchestra of twenty-five pieces, a girls' glee club of twelve voices, a trained choir of thirty for both the Catholic and Protestant services, piano classes for both beginners and advanced pupils, and classes in string and wind instruments.

The year's work in the domestic science classes has been satisfactory. In these classes we try to instill in our girls habits of cleanliness and order in housekeeping and cookery. As far as is practicable, the program of food to be prepared for the week is taken from the weekly dietary of the institution.

The work in the wood-working room certainly appeals to the boys, for it is here that they have an opportunity to express their ideas. The younger boys make toy animals, using packing-box wood and coping saw. We were able at Christmas time to send to the Christmas room for gifts several dozens of these toys. The older boys make bean bag and marble games, small tabourets, tables, plant stands, bread boards, etc.

Working in groups of three or four, the teachers have trained the children and produced several operettas and entertainments. At Christmas an operetta particularly appropriate to the Christmas season, "The Capture of Santa Claus," was given with a cast of thirty-five children. Later in the year a concert of old-fashioned songs, with characters in costume, was given. In the late spring the Glee Club and orchestra gave a creditable concert. On July 4 we gave our annual One-Ring Circus in the forenoon and in the afternoon the usual field sports were held. The day's entertainment was brought to a close by a display of fireworks in the evening.

The school library has been cared for and circulated by the teachers in the usual way, a selection of books being sent to every building biweekly. During the year we have been able to add 217 new books, which have been greatly enjoyed by the boys and girls. We try to arouse interest in reading in the classroom by reading selections from interesting books, or by having a child read a certain book and tell the story to the class. The victrola records are cared for by the school department and distributed biweekly to the buildings in which the children live.

Every building has a playground equipped with sand gardens, teeter boards, croquet sets and swings. Here the summer playground work is carried on after the regular school classes close. Active games directed by the playground teachers and attendants give the children the physical exercise that is obtained during the school year in the gymnasium and dancing classes. Most of the playgrounds are located in shady groves: and when the children tire of the more strenuous games they have their recreation by singing, playing the victrolas, or giving their attention to the attendant while she reads to them interesting stories. The croquet sets are almost constantly in use, as the children spend considerable time in practicing for one of the events of the late summer season, — the croquet tournament. These playgrounds make a pleasant diversion for the older boys and girls after they return to their buildings from the occupations of the day on the farm, in the gardens, from the laundry, domestic and industrial departments, giving them an opportunity for recreation out of doors.

The satisfactory results that have been obtained in the training of the children in the school department this past year are due in no small measure to the excellent co-operation and conscientious work of the teachers.

Respectfully submitted,

PEARL H. LITTLEFIELD,
Head Teacher.

DENTAL REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report of the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

Examinations	1,632	Local anæsthesia	161
Treatment of stomatitis ¹	168	Vulcanite dentures	13
Extractions, permanent	261	Repaired dentures	20
Extractions, deciduous	240	Bridges	1
Pulp treatment, permanent	272	X-rays	220
Pulp treatment, deciduous	9	Ground teeth	30
Fillings, permanent	2,122	Repaired bridges	6
Fillings, deciduous	66	Total patients	2,577
Prophylatic treatment	1,517	New patients	100
Silver reduction treatment	268	Dismissals	1,404
Treatment of erupting teeth	29	Total operating hours	1,498
Post-extraction treatment	182	Gold inlay	9
Laboratory hours	65	Bridges reset	6
Gold crowns	8	Porcelain crowns reset	2
Porcelain crowns	6	Treatment fractured process	1

The scheme of education in an institution of this kind would indeed be devoid of beneficial results were it not that this scheme aims as it does to embody those ideas the keynote of which is health and bodily cleanliness.

The lesson of health is by no means well learned unless the child understands that one of the means of maintaining health, and a very necessary one, is oral cleanliness. Some of our children are, of course, incapable of appreciating this, but the more advanced children appear to have accepted this fact, as is evidenced not only by their own clean teeth but also by their efforts to keep clean the teeth of less fortunate children, a service difficult to perform yet often well done and praise-worthy to say the least. The statement of many children to me, "I brush my teeth every night," or "I keep my teeth clean," is evidence that they see their duty in this respect, and it is evidence that they are learning this chapter in the lesson of health. Prevention is our watchword, as it is the slogan of every well-regulated community.

The girls are more capable, or at least more dutiful, in the care of their teeth than are the boys, but I believe the proportion would be similar in the case of normal boys and girls.

A recent general survey of the institution to determine the condition of the teeth relative to the awarding of "Clean Teeth" buttons was, on the whole, gratifying. In one or two girls' buildings, every child merited a button.

The canceling of the annual fair this year caused us to make use of the assembly hall for the awarding of the buttons. We had a short musical program and community singing, and Dr. Mildred A. Libby explained to the children, in a very lucid manner, the relation of teeth to the general health. I took advantage of the occasion to give the children due credit for their success in meriting the "Clean Teeth" award. I emphasized prevention of disease and gradual elimination of

¹ All mouth lesions included under this heading except those arising from pulpal or pericemental disturbances.

toothache and painful dental operations by daily care of the teeth. I then demonstrated an approved method of cleaning the teeth.

Approximately 700 girls and 370 boys were eligible for "Clean Teeth" buttons. This is exclusive of boys recently transferred to Belchertown, many of whom were entitled to the award.

The total number of extractions is somewhat less for the past year than for 1921. One factor bearing on the greater or lesser number of extractions is the condition of the teeth of newly admitted children. Very many of these children have had no attention given their teeth, which are frequently in a deplorable condition.

The newly admitted child also requires careful handling. He is often timid and apprehensive so that the procedure of "getting him into line" is a slow one, requiring the exercise of considerable patience and perseverance. I see these patients the day following their admittance. At the first visit examination only is made and the patient is given an appointment for a week later. During the next few visits, generally a week apart, prophylaxis and other operations, not entailing a great deal of pain, are performed. By this time the child is accustomed to his surroundings, and during his visits he sees other children coming for dental treatment, and some of his fears and misgivings are dispelled. He is being constantly reminded of keeping his teeth clean; and if he has been faithful in this, he, being a new patient, is given the "Clean Teeth" button and its significance is explained to him.

Patients having a known tendency to be lax about the care of their teeth are given appointments periodically for observation. A written report concerning such cases is sent in on the daily report sheet also, so that the physician may take the matter up with the matron in charge of the patient. In this manner the co-operation of physicians, matrons and attendants fulfills every requirement in the maintenance of clean teeth.

All patients for whom extraction has been performed are given appointment for after-treatment on the following day. So-called "mouth wash slips" are also sent to the matron, directing the use of wash or whatever other care may be necessary for the comfort of the patient.

The regulation requiring that I be notified of all transfers and of patients leaving and returning to the school permits me to see these patients when they should be given attention; otherwise, a patient might leave the school just previous to appointment date and return after dismissal had been given all patients in his building. He would thus probably miss attention for months.

A small percentage of impacted teeth have been disclosed by the X-ray, but these have not been removed except where pathological disturbances are in evidence.

We have on hand at all times several games and pictorial magazines for use by the children in the waiting room, and they appreciate this little service. Checkers, dominoes, "Fish Pond" and "Tiddly Winks" each has its inning.

Our dental unit — engine, cuspidor, table and light — is in fine condition and gives every promise of long service.

In closing I wish to thank the superintendent and physicians of the staff for their generous and amiable co-operation. A full measure of appreciation I accord to those matrons and attendants who have responded to the plea for a higher standard of dental hygiene.

Respectfully submitted,

JOHN A. NASH, D.M.D.

REPORT OF THE SOCIAL SERVICE DEPARTMENT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report of the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

The past year has seen a steady growth in the work of the social service department. Records show a constantly increasing number of investigations of homes, a longer list of children on parole and a larger number of visits paid to those children, to their relatives, employers and other interested friends and agencies. The personnel of the department was increased by the appointment, in April, of Miss Hawley P. Foster as social worker. During the summer a student worker, Miss Lora P. Garland, was employed and trained. The material equipment has been improved by substituting a Ford coupé for the old touring car. The amount of work done by the visitor using the automobile greatly exceeds that of one depending upon trains, electric cars and public automobiles. Many bits of personal service have been made possible, such as carrying paroled patients to their homes, taking patients to other hospitals for care, etc.

Frequent informal conferences have been held with the superintendent, the staff and the social workers. Attendance at the monthly conferences of the State hospital social workers has been helpful in co-ordinating the work. Miss Hannah Curtis, department director of social work, has assisted greatly by her suggestions and instructions. The workers from the Wrentham State School attended the National Conference of Social Work, held in Providence in June, and the Massachusetts Conference of Social Work, held in Greenfield in November.

The work of the department during the year falls into two main divisions, — that in connection with pre-parole and after-care.

1. Pre-parole.

(a) Investigations of home and social conditions. Explanation of parole supervision and enlistment of aid of interested individuals and agencies.

(b) Reports to, and conferences with, the superintendent, trustees and staff.

2. After-care.

(a) Supervision through visits to the home.

(b) Personal reports of patients at the school. Personal letters to the worker.

(c) Visits to, and written reports from, employers, relatives and other interested individuals.

It is difficult to over-emphasize the importance of any one division of the work. The psychological value of the first contact with relatives or prospective employers is great. The whole problem of the proper placement of the boys and girls in good homes under the sympathetic supervision of intelligent people, in proper kinds of work, with proper associates, is a serious one. The co-operation of individuals in the community is one of the props upon which the busy social worker must lean, particularly in the care of the feeble-minded. Many a boy and girl is tided over a difficult and discouraging situation by the wise word spoken at the

right time by some one — an employer, a town official, a minister — whose interest in the child makes him feel that he has a big brother.

After the home and social investigations in response to requests for parole follow the essential conferences with the superintendent and doctors, who have known the children intimately during their stay at the school. The judgment and advice of the trustees, superintendent and staff are extremely valuable in the placing of the right child in the right home in the community. Their friendly, cordial interest in the work of the department has made possible an increase in its quantity and quality.

The after-care of parole patients is accomplished in various ways, — all important, no one sufficient in itself. The social workers pay frequent visits to the homes of the children at intervals ranging from one to six months. Between visits the chain of personal interest is kept strong by the interchange of personal letters, telephone messages, etc. Excited messages over the wire give news of everything from a temporary disagreement between a girl and her employer to the announcement of the purchase of a new coat at the sub-basement bargain price of \$16.98. This personal relationship between patient and visitor is one of the most pleasant phases of the work. But no social worker can depend upon the temporary influence of her association with feeble-minded children for the supervision necessary to meet the problems arising from their unstable emotions, vacillating interests, and from the presence of personality traits which go to make for anything but smooth living. During the past year added stress has been laid upon the value of the help given by employers, relatives and other sympathetic individuals in the community who are able to exert steady influence upon these paroled patients from a school for feeble-minded.

An analysis of visits paid to such interested individuals and of other work for the year follows: —

TABLE 1. — *Pre-Parole and After-Care of Patients from the Wrentham State School during the Year ending Nov. 30, 1922.*

Home and social investigations ¹	94
Visits to children on parole and vacation	474
Interviews with employers, clergy, etc.	396
Total	964

TABLE 2. — *Data on Occupation and Living Conditions of Patients on Parole from the Wrentham State School Nov. 30, 1922.*

	Males.	Females.	Totals.
Number on parole Nov. 30, 1922	49	78	127
Living conditions:			
Number with relatives	37	45	82
Number in working homes	3	30	33
Number in boarding homes	9	3	12
Occupation:			
Number in factories, garages, laundries, etc.	32	27	59
Number in offices and stores	1	2	3
Number on farms	10	—	10
Number in housework	—	33	33
Number not gainfully employed	6	16	22
Average wages per week ²	\$9 25	\$5 50	—

¹ Each investigation involves from one to eight calls.

² Boys employed on farms and girls employed in housework receive their board in addition to wages.

These figures are not startling, but they are a source of satisfaction to those interested in the possibility and desirability of the parole of feeble-minded boys and girls under supervision. Even more satisfying are the records of expression of happiness from the children who have been allowed to leave the walls of the institution and take their part in the rendering of faithful service in the world, and the testimonials of employers and relatives who appreciate the devotion and loyalty of these defectives who often surpass their mental superiors in the quality of their necessary humble service.

Respectfully submitted,

ALICE RAYMOND,
Head Social Worker.

PUBLIC SCHOOL EXAMINER'S REPORT.

To the Superintendent of the Wrentham State School.

I hereby respectfully submit to you this annual report of the year ending Nov. 30, 1922.

With the work of the year ending November 30, the retarded children presented in the entire district assigned by the Commissioner of Mental Diseases to the Wrentham State School have been examined, and we are now working the second time in this territory. Each community visited has been like an individual, having its special characteristics, its own activities and its own interpretation of its problems, no two being exactly alike. The forces dominant in the neighborhood are largely reflected in the children as we meet them in the school clinic. It is gratifying and interesting in this second study to note the progress in the different children, especially those in which there was some doubt as to the amount of their retardation, or some conditions which, if removed or improved, would give the child less of a handicap. Several children who were examined last year were placed for a time in the special class and in September were returned to the grade, not the one in which they were formerly placed, but one suited to their ability, and are now interested, ambitious, and doing good work.

We have found that tests alone are not to be wholly relied upon, personality being just as strong a factor as the mental age or intelligence quotient. The behavior of the individual, his reaction socially and his capacity for working steadily make for him his niche in life in the world to-day. There are many workers with a mentality of nine or ten years and some less who are useful members of society, self-supporting, law-abiding, respectable citizens. On the other hand, there are those who early show defects to such an extent that special training is necessary.

We have come to realize more fully that extra institutional care of the feeble-minded is a recognized problem of magnitude, the importance of which the general public is beginning to appreciate. The pendulum has swung in the opposite direction. A decade ago it was felt that segregation was the best method of caring for these individuals. With a more intensive study of their type, the rapid increase in their number is recognized, and the fact also that only a small percentage can be accommodated in the three training schools of our State. The cost of maintaining 1.65 per cent of the population (the number estimated to be mentally deficient) is prohibitive and really not necessary. We have learned, too, the type for whom intra-institutional life is best and those who give promise of community existence, possessing the ability to adjust themselves socially and industrially.

The knowledge of these facts and a forward look into the future have made it necessary to formulate a plan to educate, train and supervise in the community the child who is unable to keep in the grades with the average pupil, and who gives promise of being a failure socially and industrially as well as in his academic studies.

The traveling clinic is an aid, first, in helping the teachers to appreciate the extent of defect in the mentally retarded, that they may the more intelligently train and teach those who, from their behavior, are not problems. Second, to recommend institutional care for those who, for a few years, need training in habit formation, self-control and self-discipline in a new environment, together with vocational training, these to be returned later to the community on the parole system. There is a third class whose defects are so obvious and serious that they can never be self-supporting. For these institutional care is recommended. The

fourth class is the defective criminalistic type, who need to be segregated in a special institution.

Our aim is to aid the teacher in recognizing very early in the child's school life those who need special help before they are rushed along and placed in grades in which the work is beyond their intelligence and powers of comprehension. Here they become idle, disinterested pupils, void of ambition because they are misplaced. We have found a number of pupils who, because of age and size, have been placed in grades far beyond their capacity, — a girl in the junior high able to do only second grade work; a boy in the seventh grade who could not spell simple words of three letters and did not know his tables in arithmetic. These are only two of many cases we meet daily. The clinic can classify into several groups those who can be trained in the community and those necessary to be sent to institutions.

SUMMARY OF WORK IN OUT-PATIENT DEPARTMENT FROM DEC. 1, 1921, TO DEC. 1, 1922.

Number of towns visited 7

Distribution of Cases according to Intelligence Quotient.

	Number.	Per Cent.
Above 90	23	6
Between 80-89	46	13
Between 70-79	98	27
Between 60-69	105	29
Between 50-59	60	17
Below 50	24	7

Over 50 per cent between 60-80.

Results of Investigations.

Delinquents	41
Of these, 18 have court records.	
Those of institutional type	22
5 have been admitted to Wrentham State School as a result of this examination; 2 more expect to be admitted soon.	
Those handicapped by language difficulty which was sufficient cause for retardation	51
Of these, 12 were recommended for special class for non-English speaking children.	
Many have some physical defect.	

Results of Physical Examination.

Eyes need attention	54
1 has lost sight of one eye.	
Teeth need attention	58
7 have Hutchinson teeth.	
Enlarged tonsils	79
Ears need attention:	
Diminished hearing	32
Discharging ears	16
Very deaf	1
Adenoids	22
10 or more pounds underweight	38
10 or more pounds overweight	47
Of these, 4 are endocrines.	
Need general health improved	18
Speech defect (stammer)	7
Heart trouble	3
2 have enlarged hearts; 1 had heart lesion.	
Hydrocephalic tendency	7
Microcephalic tendency	3
Cretin	2
Mongolian characteristics	1
Epileptic	2

Neurotic or psychotic	6
1 had convulsions (epileptic).	
Nasal obstructions	1
Cervical adenitis	2
Spinal trouble	2
Ptosis of the lids	5
Goiter	1
Facial palsy	1
Crippled	2

Recommendations.

For special class	89
For average class	102
Re-examine in one year	71
Number of cases re-examined	17
Number improved	8
Number not improved	9

3 cases improved and did not need re-examination; 3 others that were in special class are now in grades and doing well.

ALICE M. PATTERSON, M.D.

TREASURER'S REPORT.

To the Commissioner of Mental Diseases.

I respectfully submit the following report of the finances of this institution for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 1922:—

CASH ACCOUNT.

Balance Dec. 1, 1921	\$8,674 87
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Receipts.

Income.

Board of inmates:			
Private	\$1,110 45		
Reimbursements, insane	5,970 08		
	\$7,080 53		
Personal services:			
Reimbursement from Board of Retirement		95 37	
Sales:			
Travel, transportation and office expenses	\$43 57		
Food	1 12		
Clothing and materials	251 01		
Furnishings and household supplies	29 90		
Farm:			
Cows and calves	\$505 92		
Pigs and hogs	10 00		
Hides	31 85		
Sundries	40 62		
	588 39		
Garage, stable and grounds		2 13	
Repairs, ordinary		194 41	
		1,110 53	
Miscellaneous:			
Interest on bank balances	\$319 40		
Rent	96 00		
Sundries	858 35		
	1,273 75		
			9,560 18
Other receipts:			
Refunds of previous year			114 87

Receipts from Treasury of Commonwealth.

Maintenance appropriations:			
Balance of 1921		\$32,858 57	
Advance money (amount on hand November 30)		32,000 00	
Approved schedules of 1922		378,344 19	
		443,202 76	
Special appropriations:			
Balance of 1921		\$15,362 67	
Approved schedules of 1922		161,009 22	
		176,371 89	
Total			\$637,924 57

Payments.

To treasury of Commonwealth:			
Institution income		\$9,560 18	
Refunds, account of maintenance, \$142.72; account of special, \$127.50		270 22	
Refunds of previous year		114 87	
		<hr/>	\$9,945 27
Maintenance appropriations:			
Balance of schedules of previous year		\$41,533 44	
Approved schedules of 1922	\$378,344 19		
Less returned	142 72		
		<hr/>	378,201 47
November advances		20,041 65	
		<hr/>	439,776 56
Special appropriations:			
Balance of schedules of previous year		\$15,362 67	
Approved schedules of 1922	\$161,009 22		
Less returned	127 50		
		<hr/>	160,881 72
November advances		2,431 37	
October advances		687 64	
		<hr/>	179,363 40
Balance, Nov. 30, 1922:			
In bank		\$7,139 77	
In office		1,699 57	
		<hr/>	8,839 34
Total			<hr/> \$637,924 57

MAINTENANCE.

Balance from previous year, brought forward	\$250 92
Appropriation, current year	453,150 00
Total	<hr/> \$453,400 92
Expenses (as analyzed below)	427,793 47
Balance reverting to treasury of Commonwealth	<hr/> \$25,607 45

Analysis of Expenses.

Personal services	\$160,346 95
Religious instruction	1,200 00
Travel, transportation and office expenses	7,524 69
Food	90,530 99
Clothing and materials	24,121 70
Furnishings and household supplies	25,778 91
Medical and general care	8,030 59
Heat, light and power	35,142 43
Farm	22,946 08
Garage, stable and grounds	11,016 93
Repairs, ordinary	19,577 20
Repairs and renewals	21,597 00
Total expenses for maintenance	<hr/> \$427,793 47

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Balance Dec. 1, 1921	\$170,921 69
Appropriations for current year	58,030 00
Total	<hr/> \$228,951 69
Expended during the year (see statement below)	\$169,823 95
Reverting to treasury of Commonwealth	18 39
	<hr/>
Balance Nov. 30, 1922, carried to next year	169,842 34
	<hr/> \$59,109 35

OBJECT.	Act or Resolve.	Whole Amount.	Expended during Fiscal Year.	Total expended to Date.	Balance at End of Year.
Purchase of land (balance reappropriated)	1922, chapter 129	\$230 00	—	—	\$230 00
Purchase of Brightman property	1919, chapter 242	8,000 00	\$76 04	\$1,339 96	6,660 04
Girls' industrial building	1920, chapter 225	55,000 00	35,791 50	51,470 33	3,529 67
Cold-storage plant	1920, chapter 225	55,000 00	29,372 82	54,352 03	647 97
Assembly hall	1921, chapter 203	94,000 00	60,873 89	74,601 56	19,398 44
Barn	1921, chapter 203	25,000 00	4,092 50	14,521 18	10,478 82
Boys' industrial building	1922, chapter 129	40,000 00	21,835 59	21,835 59	18,164 41
Three sewer beds	1922, chapter 129	7,800 00	7,799 14	7,799 14	86*
Extraordinary expenses, horse and hay barn	1922, chapter 546	10,000 00	9,982 47	9,982 47	17 53*
		\$295,030 00	\$169,823 95	\$235,902 26	\$59,127 74

*Balance reverting to treasury of the Commonwealth	\$18 39
Balance carried to next year	59,109 35
Total as above	\$59,127 74

RESOURCES AND LIABILITIES.

Resources.

Cash on hand	\$8,839 34
November cash vouchers (paid from advance money):	
Account of maintenance	\$20,041 65
Account of special appropriations	3,119 01
	23,160 66
Due from treasury of Commonwealth from available appropriation account	\$32,000 00
November, 1922, schedule	17,592 00
Special appropriations	8,942 23
	\$58,534 23

Liabilities.

Outstanding schedules of current year:	
Schedule of November bills	\$49,592 00
Special appropriations	8,942 23
	\$58,534 23

PER CAPITA.

During the year the average number of inmates has been 1,275.13.
Total cost for maintenance, \$427,793.47.
Equal to a weekly per capita cost of \$6.4517.
Receipt from sales, \$1,110.53.
Equal to a weekly per capita of \$0.0167.
All other institution receipts, \$8,449.65.
Equal to a weekly per capita of \$0.1270.
Net weekly per capita \$6.3080.

Respectfully submitted,

SARA M. CLAYLAND,
Treasurer.

Examined and found correct as compared with the records in the office of the Auditor of the Commonwealth.

ALONZO B. COOK,
Auditor.

